

AGENDA: October 8, 2002

5.2

CATEGORY: Public Hearing

DEPT.: Police

TITLE: Expenditure of Federal Funds Designated
for Local Law Enforcement Block Grant
for Fiscal Year 2002-03

RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing, accept public comments and authorize the expenditure of funds obtained through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program to support a Systems Specialist in the Police Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

This grant provides \$110,595 in Federal funds with a disparate allocation amount of \$24,885 to the County of Santa Clara, \$85,710 to the City of Mountain View and a required City match of \$8,571. Matching funds will be requested in the proposed Fiscal Year 2003-04 budget. The grant is on a two-year funding cycle.

Future funding for this recommendation is expected to come from the same source. In the event that these funds are no longer available and the grant expires, the Police Department will have one-year advance notice on securing an alternative source of funding.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Part of the "Clinton Crime Bill" of 1994, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, has been in effect for six years. The block grant program is a noncompetitive pass-through of Federal funds to be used within specific program areas. One of those program areas includes hiring new personnel in order to accomplish a net increase of staffing. This includes support staff that enhances the Police Department's service levels on the front line.

When reviewing the major priorities during the budget preparation of Fiscal Year 2000-01 of both the City as a whole and the Police Department in particular, an additional information systems support position surfaced as the single highest unfunded need. As Police Department personnel have grown increasingly dependent upon the existing information technology resources that they use in performing their duties, the Police Department's need for support has increased. Also, as the Police Department implements new information technology systems, plans for upcoming changes in local, State and Federal criminal justice systems and plans for the replacement or upgrade of its existing systems, the Police Department's need for qualified technical support will continue to grow. It is crucial that the

personnel in this role be able to support the essential systems on a 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week basis; that they be familiar with public safety automation systems as well as modern desktop computer operating systems and applications; and be familiar with the information and systems security requirements placed on the Police Department by the State of California Department of Justice.

The Police Department has used past grant funds to pay overtime to Police Officers involved in specific community-oriented policing activities or problem-solving projects. Past grant funds have also been used to purchase items of equipment and to provide specialized training, as permitted by the grant guidelines.

The grant requires that a special advisory board be convened to consider the use of the grant funds. The grant is specific as to the composition of the advisory board which must include representatives from the recipient law enforcement agency, the public schools, the courts, the office of the local prosecutor and a local nonprofit organization. The recommendations of the advisory board are nonbinding. The Block Grant Advisory Board met on September 12, 2002. The other members of the Board were Ms. Judy Hannemann of the Mountain View-Los Altos Union High School District, Mr. Lawrie McMillan of the Community Health Awareness Council, Mr. Paul Schultz of the Community Health Awareness Council, Mr. Javier Acala of the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office and Judge Charles Hayden of the Superior Court. On behalf of the Police Department, Captain Bruce Barsi made the recommendation that the grant funds for this year and the funds for future years be used entirely for the payment of personnel, ongoing training and equipment costs relating to supporting information technology services in the Police Department. The Advisory Board gave the Police Department unanimous support on this recommendation.

ALTERNATIVES

Upon consideration of public input, the City Council could direct that the Federal block grant funds be put to other uses.

AGENDA: October 8, 2002

PAGE: 3

PUBLIC NOTICING

Noticing published in *San Jose Post Record*, City public boards (City Hall and in the Library) and agenda posting.

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SSGV/BS/9/CAM
301-10-08-02M^

Attachments: 1. Notice of Public Hearing
2. Advisory Board Minutes, September 12, 2002